

assisted agriculture research programme called the National Agriculture Innovation Project which focus on innovation in agriculture technology;

(b) whether Government also plans to launch a special mission to promote cultivation of bio-fuel crops like Jatropha, Karanj crops like sugarcane, kassava, sweet sorghum, maize, sugarbeats, etc.;

(c) whether the need for making bio-fuel cultivation is economically viable for farmers as an alternative crops; and

(d) whether the project would facilitate and accelerate the sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture so that it can support poverty alleviation and income generation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) The Government has launched Rs. 1189.99 crore (US\$ 250 million) National Agricultural Innovation Project to strengthen the Agriculture Research Programme which focus on Innovation in Agriculture Technology.

(b) Government of India has plans to launch a bio-diesel mission covering Jatropha and Karanj crops with Ministry of Rural Development as Nodal Ministry.

(c) Efforts are on to make bio-fuel cultivation economically viable for farmers as an alternative crop.

(d) The project would facilitate and accelerate the sustainable transformation of Indian agriculture to support poverty alleviation and income generation through innovations in research on production to consumption system, sustainable livelihood improvement particularly in disadvantaged region and enhancing productivity and quality through strengthening basic and strategic research in agricultural sciences.

Rate of production of paddy

†*358. **SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:**
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 40 per cent i.e. 16 million hectare paddy

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

producing land, out of total such land in the country, falls within the States of Assam, Bihar, M.P. and Orissa alone;

(b) if not, the facts thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the rate of production of paddy in these States is less than the rate of national average production;

(d) if so, the rates of production in each of these States;

(e) whether the shortage of foodgrains in the country can be met by bringing rate of production in these States at par with the rate of national production; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The area under paddy cultivation in the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa together was 26.8 per cent, i.e. 11.67 million hectares out of the total 43.49 million hectares in the country during 2005-06 (4th advance estimates).

(c) and (d) The rates of production as measured in terms of yield of paddy in tonnes per hectare in these States are lower than that at the all-India level. The table below gives the yield of paddy in these States during 2005-06 (4th advance estimates) *vis-a-vis* the national average.

State	Yield of Paddy (Tonnes/Hectare)
Assam	2.22
Bihar	1.59
Madhya Pradesh	1.50
Orissa	2.27
ALL-INDIA:	3.14

(e) and (f) In terms of paddy production, the States of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa together accounted for 16.8% of the total paddy production in the country in 2005-06. If the yield of paddy in these States is brought at par with the national level yield of 3.14 tonnes per

hectare, then their share in the total production of paddy increases to 26.8%. As a result, the contribution of these States to the total foodgrains production increases from 6.2% to 7.4%, i.e., an additional 13.75 million tonnes. It is to this extent that the increased yield of paddy in the above States improves the overall availability of foodgrains in the country.

To increase production of paddy, the Government is implementing a major Centrally Sponsored Scheme called "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP-Rice)". Under the scheme, assistance is provided on 90:10 per cent basis between the Government of India and the State Governments, especially for production and distribution of seeds. Further, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed more than 700 high yielding varieties and 28 hybrids suitable for different agro-climatic conditions. Frontline demonstrations are also organized by ICAR on farmers' fields on 100% Central Government assistance for transfer of technology. A minimum price guarantee is also provided to the paddy growers through the price support mechanism.

Coverage of crops under NAIS

*359. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crops presently covered in Andhra Pradesh under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS);

(b) whether the State Government has sought the intervention of the Central Government to include certain other perennial crops in the scheme;

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the above proposals;

(d) the reasons why a farmer particularly a marginal farmer, usually hesitates to undertake as insurance cover under NAIS and what hassles he has to face; and

(e) the steps the Central Government would take to help the farmers and make NAIS more acceptable and farmer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Crops covered in Andhra Pradesh under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) during Rabi 2005-06 and Kharif 2006 are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).